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CONFIDENTIAL / NO OFFICIALS ONLY 25X1A

File

COUNTRY: India

CIA

SUBJECT: Congress Party Session

DATE 25X1A2g

DATE ACQUIRED: 25X1A

DATE OF INFORMATION: Jan 54

PROCESSED *14 Mar 54*

25X1X6

SOURCE:

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1. "The 59th session of the Indian National Congress, the party in power in India, was held in the third week of January 1954, at Kalyani in West Bengal. The session was dominated by the personality of the Congress President, Mr Nehru, who imposed a sense of homogeneity over all factional and provincial tendencies. This reliance on one man is, as many observers have stated, a source of present strength but also indicative of inherent weakness in the Congress organization. Pervading all the deliberations at the session was the anxiety over the proposed US military aid to Pakistan.
2. "Addressing the Congress session, Mr Nehru explained the opposition to the proposed aid with the argument that 'if Pakistan accepts aid, she becomes potentially a war area.....freedom recedes in Asia and the currents of history are reversed.'
3. "Against this, Pakistan's Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Ali argued that a strong Pakistan is essential to political stability in Asia, Pakistan has no designs to use the military aid against India and that there is little difference between economic aid and military aid anyway.
4. "The resolutions dealing with internal matters generally endorsed government policies and noted with satisfaction the progress made under the Five-Year Plan, but argued that the pace of progress should be quickened particularly in regard to village and small-scale industries.
5. "Though held in an area known for its leftist sympathies, the session was very largely attended, thus indicating that the Congress Party has still much of its old-time spell over the masses."

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Congress party
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attitudes toward
Pak. aid
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Area
India

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